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Eyes are Planets that Close instead of Turn

by Nicole Schulz

My orange thesaurus says orbit is the same as
Revolution
and someone years ago underlined
“Adequate”
before donating the thesaurus to the church library,
where I stole it from.

There are days that feel like spinning
and years that go in circles but don't quite close—
I orbit the same spaces,
same faces.

Revolving around the roundabouts on the way home,
I still pray.

When I arrive, my mother asks
when I will be going home?
because she knows I don't live there anymore,
yet I always orbit back.
And she calls me brave
with a certain pain in her pupils:
round and hurt and home,
as gravity pulls me away again.